



Pittard Road CCI **March 10, 2006**

Introduction

A community member contacted the Georgia Department of Human Resources Northeast Health District (NEHD) regarding cancer cases in the Pittard Road community in Clarke County, Georgia. In response, NEHD and the Georgia Division of Public Health conducted a cancer cluster investigation. In addition, environmental sampling data and community concerns were reviewed to determine the extent of past, current, and future exposure to hazardous chemicals in the environment, and the potential for resulting health effects, including cancer.

Site Description and History

The Pittard Road community is a neighborhood between Highway 72 (Hull Road) and Old Elberton Highway/Spring Valley Road near the northeast border of Clarke County. It is a small residential community on approximately 16 acres bordered by woodland. Parallel to Hull Road near the intersection of Hull Road and Pittard Road is a set of railroad tracks dividing Pittard Road. To the south of the railroad tracks are single family homes with individual water wells, and to the north are multiple and single family homes connected to a municipal water source. The topography of Pittard Road is generally flat with a downward slope to the southeast.

Within one mile of the Pittard Road community are small community businesses, two mid-sized industrial facilities, a church and an elementary school. There is no history of any other industry in the area. There is no known hazardous waste generating site or landfill within a mile radius of this community. The railroad tracks may have

been a source for chemical spills, but there is no evidence or report of such events.

Environmental Sampling/Results

GDPH was provided with a list of individuals who have been diagnosed with cancer. After NEHD and GDPH conducted analyses of the available cancer data for this community, it was determined that no elevated cancer rates or patterns are suspected. Although rates for Pittard Road residents appear to be high, the cancers are not all one type; they are occurring in populations typically diagnosed with the specific cancer types, and the types of cancer are very common. NEHD and GDPH determined that Pittard Road is not a cancer cluster.

Conclusions

GDPH concludes that residents of the Pittard Road community are not at increased risk for adverse health effects from exposure to hazardous chemicals in groundwater or air, or radon in indoor air. GDPH has determined that there is **no apparent public health hazard** because: human exposure to contaminated media might be occurring, might have occurred in the past, or might occur in the future, but the exposures are at levels that are not expected to cause known health effects.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations at this time. GDPH will provide health education about cancer and individual water well maintenance to residents of the Pittard Road community.